

REMARKS

Objections

Claim 13 has been amended to correct the informalities noted and removal of the objection is respectfully requested. Applicants also have amended claim 24 to change the UK spelling of “signalling” to the US spelling “signaling”.

The objections with respect to multiple dependent claims 7, 8, 10-12 and 22 have been addressed and corrected, and removal of the objection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-6, 9, 13-21 and 23-32 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Pat Pub. No. 2007/0156291 to Curt et al. (Curt) Independent claims 1 and 23, from which the other claims depend have been amended, and the present invention is believed to be distinguished from the prior art.

The present invention as now claimed in Claim 1 is a power consumption monitoring and controlling apparatus. The apparatus is thus not only able to monitor power consumption, but is also able to control the power consumption in accordance with the requirements of the user, and/or to take into account cheap rate intervals provided by the utility supplier.

The present invention as now claimed includes *inter alia* power interruption means for interrupting the electrical power passing through the electrical power line. In addition, the data controller is adapted to send on and off signals to the electrical measurement device to control the passage of electricity through the electrical power line. Further, the interface of the receiver forming part of the remote display controller is not only compatible with, and suitable for, providing the data display transmission signals to a television display, but is also adapted for communicating the data display transmission signals to a set top box.

The present invention therefore provides a particularly convenient way to monitor electrical consumption through an electrical power line, to display power consumption statistics on a user’s television display, and to transmit data display transmission signals relating to the power consumption statistics to and from a set top box.

This means that the power consumption statistics may, for example, be transmitted from the set top box directly to a utility supplier, which data may assist the utility supplier in managing the supply of power to consumers in a particular geographical area.

In addition, the fact that the interface of the receiver of the remote display controller is compatible with, and adapted for, communicating the data display transmission signals to a set top box, means that data can also be transmitted from, for example, the utility supplier through the set top box in order to control one or more of the data controllers.

Curt does not disclose a method or apparatus as now claimed in the claims of this application, and removal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claim Rejections – 35 U.S.C § 103

Claims 17 and 18 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Curt in view of U.S. Pat. Pub. No. 2006/0195229 to Bell et al. (Bell). Claims 17 and 18 depend from claim 1, which has been amended to distinguish the present invention. Neither Curt nor Bell, either alone or in combination have all of the elements as now recited in the claims, and removal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

The claims have been amended to correct the informalities noted by the Examiner as well as to clarify the present invention in view of the prior art cite by the Examiner. Accordingly, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance, and allowance is respectfully requested.

Respectfully Submitted,

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